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LETTER DATED 7 JULY 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KUWAIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I am transmitting to you herewith the text of a press statement adopted by the ninth meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Damascus Declaration countries, held at Kuwait on 5 and 6 July 1994.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad A. ABULHASAN
Permanent Representative

Annex

Press statement adopted by the ninth meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Damascus Declaration countries, held at Kuwait on 5 and 6 July 1994

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Damascus Declaration countries held their ninth meeting on 5 and 6 July 1994 in the State of Kuwait under the chairmanship of His Excellency Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, and with the following in attendance:

His Excellency Sheikh Hamdan Bin Zayed Al Nahayan, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates;

His Excellency Sheikh Muhammad Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bahrain;

His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faisal, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia;

His Excellency Mr. Farouk Al-Shara', Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic;

His Excellency Mr. Yusuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Oman;

His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassem Bin Jabr Al Thani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar;

His Excellency Mr. Amre Moussa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt.

His Excellency Sheikh Fahim Bin Sultan al-Qasimi, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, also participated in the meeting.

The Ministers conveyed their gratitude and appreciation to the Amir, Government and people of Kuwait for the warm reception and kind hospitality accorded to them and expressed their happiness and admiration at the accomplishments made in reconstruction following the iniquitous Iraqi invasion, the dire effects of which they had seen on last meeting in Kuwait immediately after its liberation.

The Ministers welcomed the Judgment of the International Court of Justice issued on 1 July 1994 in the dispute between Bahrain and Qatar, expressed their satisfaction that it had been accepted by the two parties and reaffirmed the need for the peaceful settlement of disputes on the basis of international law.

The Ministers considered the continued pursuit by the Iraqi regime of a policy of procrastination and selectivity in the implementation of the Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression against Kuwait, and they noted that the Iraqi regime was thereby attempting to adopt a piecemeal approach to

those resolutions and to evade the interrelated international obligations that they imposed upon it and that represented an integral legal and political whole. The Ministers condemn the fact that the Iraqi regime is failing to comply fully with the relevant United Nations resolutions and is violating the terms of the cease-fire established by resolution 687 (1991) by reiterating its expansionist claims to the State of Kuwait, by declining to recognize Kuwait's sovereignty and boundaries and threatening its independence and by jeopardizing the security of the region. The Ministers affirm that respect for the sovereignty and independence of the State of Kuwait in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 687 (1991) and for its international boundaries as endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 833 (1993) are of the essence of the obligations set forth in resolution 687 (1991). The Ministers urge the Security Council to continue to bring pressure to bear on the Iraqi regime to comply fully with all the relevant United Nations resolutions and particularly those requiring recognition of the international boundaries between the two countries, the release of Kuwaiti and third-country prisoners and detainees, the payment of compensation and the undertaking not to commit or promote any act of terrorism or sabotage.

The Ministers stressed once more their firm interest in the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq and their sympathy for the fraternal Iraqi people in its plight. They affirmed that the Iraqi regime bore full responsibility for that plight as a result of its refusal to implement Security Council resolutions 706 (1991) and 712 (1991) addressing the issue of Iraq's needs in terms of food and medicines.

The Ministers reviewed recent developments in relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. They expressed great regret that the Islamic Republic of Iran had failed to respond to repeated calls from the United Arab Emirates, and particularly to the initiative of its President, His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, for the conduct of an earnest and direct dialogue with a view to ending the Iranian occupation of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, in accordance with international law and conventions and on the basis of the principles of good-neighbourliness and mutual respect. The Ministers renewed their support and backing for the United Arab Emirates in the matter of its sovereignty over the three islands.

The Ministers reviewed the various stages through which the peace process had passed since the Madrid conference and considered its status at the present time. They noted with deep concern the standstill in negotiations with Syria and with Lebanon because of Israel's intransigence and its failure to apply the principles on which agreement had been reached in the course of the Madrid Peace Conference as well as the principle of land for peace.

In their discussion of the autonomy agreement signed at Cairo as a first step towards peace, the Ministers affirmed that the essence of the peace process lay in the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in all domains and particularly those involving Syria and Lebanon.

The Ministers noted Israel's increasingly unyielding attitude in recent times and the escalation of its aggressive and provocative practices in the occupied Arab territories and against Syria and Lebanon in particular.

They affirm the importance of adherence to the principles and rules of the Madrid conference, to international legitimacy and to a comprehensive and just peace linked with full withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, the Golan and southern Lebanon.

In light of their endorsement of the peace process and their continued participation in its promotion, the Ministers expressed their support for Syria and Lebanon and their backing for their just demand for the restoration of all their territory under occupation, in implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 425 (1978) and in accordance with the principle of land for peace. In this connection, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Damascus Declaration countries affirmed that Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 must take place as quickly as possible.

The Ministers condemned Israel's continued acts of aggression against Lebanon and its attempts to adopt a piecemeal approach to a solution, and they affirmed that their countries adhered to the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations given that that was the only way to guarantee the security and stability of all the States in the region.

The Ministers called upon the United States of America and the Russian Federation, the co-sponsors of the peace process, to do their utmost to break the deadlock in that process. They expressed the hope that the forthcoming visit to the region of Mr. Warren Christopher, United States Secretary of State, would yield positive results and lead to tangible progress and that it would lend momentum to the peace process and to the achievement of a just and comprehensive solution.

The Ministers requested His Excellency Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, in his capacity as Chairman of the meeting, to inform the United States of America and the Russian Federation, the co-sponsors of the Peace Conference, of the deep concern of the Damascus Declaration countries at the standstill in the negotiations with Syria and with Lebanon as a result of Israel's intransigence and its failure to apply the principle of land for peace.

The Ministers further took note with concern of the latest developments in the situation in Somalia, and they called upon the Somali leaders to give priority to the national interest in order to ensure the achievement of peace and security in the country.

The Ministers voiced their deep concern at the increased severity of the fighting in Afghanistan, and they called upon all Afghan leaders to halt the fighting and seek a solution through dialogue so as to safeguard the interests of the Afghan people.

The Ministers had followed with deep concern the continuing human tragedy of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina resulting from the policies of aggression and ethnic cleansing pursued by the Serbian forces, their persistence in defying international legitimacy, their violation of the Charter and covenants of the United Nations and their endeavour to create facts. The Ministers, condemning the continuing Serbian aggression, renew their request to the Security Council and to the international community that Bosnia and Herzegovina should be enabled to exercise its inherent right to self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations by the lifting of the arms embargo imposed on it and that the sanctions against the Serbs be increased, pressure on Serbia and Montenegro be redoubled and any reward for aggression be withheld. In this connection, the Ministers express their support for the resolution adopted by the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries held at Cairo in June 1994 and calling for the convening of an international conference on Bosnia and Herzegovina under United Nations auspices with a view to achieving an immediate cease-fire, declaring all of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina a safe area, ensuring respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the country and achieving a settlement that is fair to all parties.

At the kind invitation of that country, the Ministers agreed to hold their next meeting in the Arab Republic of Egypt.